

"MEN OF THOUGHT AND MEN OF ACTION
CLEAR THE WAY!"
(Chas MacKay.)



GOD AND THE CANNON FIRECRACKER.

This is the night of December 26th, and I have just finished reading the accounts of the drunkenness and murders and accidents that have resulted from the debauchery with which the Christians celebrate the birth of their god.

(I use the little g. like "Bernal Linford" in "The Seeker").

Among all the horrors of this horrible, superstitious Christian orgy, that I have read, there is one that happened to a girl, 17 years old, in Lexington, of whose existence I had never heard until this time.

Her name is Allie Byrnes. She is the only daughter of a job printer, J. J. Byrnes. She is from all accounts, an admirable, valuable and popular girl employed in business in the city. Some one threw a giant firecracker into a crowd of people. The explosion destroyed the right eye of Miss Byrnes, and so badly was she wounded by it that there is danger that she may lose both eyes, or die from it.

Her father is a Catholic Irishman. He is in no way under any obligation to me. I never did him a kindness or a favor in my life. His is the only printing office in Lexington that I have never, in any way, patronized. I never saw anything that indicated that he wanted me to patronize him or in anyway to help him.

I have been an infidel propagandist for forty years, and, of all the 30,000 people in Lexington, J. J. Byrnes, the printer, is the only one who has ever spoken to me a single word to induce me to come back to the Christian religion, and he has done it so long, his office being on my way to the part of the city to which I go, that I now regularly count on his stopping me and having a talk about religion. He never cares to talk to me about anything else. He is poor, but is always in a good humor, and has a smile on his face. I have never been sparing of him in my denunciation of Christianity, or of his priest, in Lexington, who made an effort, from his pulpit, to excite the people against me because I am an infidel. But Byrnes is always just as glad to see me the next time, and makes the argument for his religion just as well as any of these hired and perfunctory priests and preachers can do. He lives in the midst of houses built for money making, and all of nature that he can see, when he is talking to me, is the strip of sky that he can see, by looking up between the tops of the houses, and he looks up and says to me: "How could this great world get here unless God had made it?" When I had been an infidel propagandist for about five years the pressure against me was so hard I could hardly stand it, and I felt like I just must talk to some preacher.

I picked out what seemed to me the best man of all the preachers in town. When I was a preacher I smoked cigars. When I became an infidel propagandist I quit all use of tobacco. No priest or preacher had ever volunteered to talk to me on the subject of religion and so I had to go to see one of them. The preacher I went to see was a Campbellite, named John Shouse. He had been born poor,

Would you love your teacher if he threatened to do this to you (Malachi, chapter 2, verse 3) if he insisted and you refused to praise him?

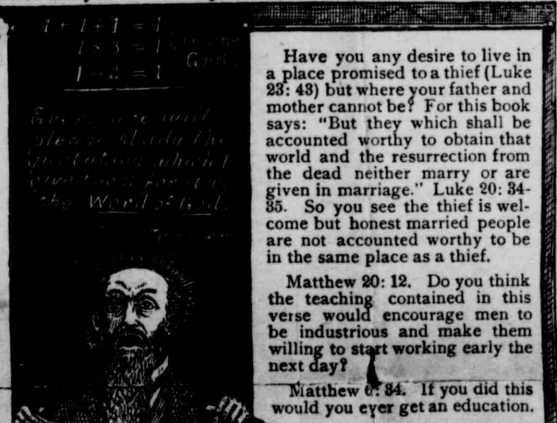
Look up to your parents, not to a mythical father in a place where the bible says, "Michael and the dragon fought." Rev. 12: 7.

Do not beg your daily bread of any myth—learn to earn it. If you contract any debts do not whine for them to be forgiven, but pay them like honest men.

Do you want to be a person so full of hate as this implies? Luke 14: 26.

Some persons pretend that this Christ brought "peace on earth and good will toward men;" was this a loving way of showing it? Luke 19: 27.

It is also claimed that he would help the poor, is this a good way of doing it? Luke 19: 26.



This is claimed to be an inspired bargain (Genesis, chapter 33, verses 16 and 18). For what was it given? To teach bible reading girls how to make a bible moral bargain.

and was getting a fine salary at the toniest of the Campbellite churches in Lexington, they being the richest gang of religionists in Lexington. I knew that I knew as much as Shouse did and he had had his mind so affected that he had been sent to a sanitarium or state hospital, and it was humiliating to me to have to advise with him about my religious troubles, but I went. I found him in a fine clergyman's "study," place where they study devilment.

He was cordial to me, and called a negro man to fix fine chairs and make things comfortable for us.

They didn't make me comfortable. When he had gotten things arranged luxuriously, so as to show me how much softer snap he had than I had, and I was just ready to tell him that I came to talk to him about religion, he picked up a handful of very fine cigars and asked me to have one, as he stuck one in his own mouth.

I did not take one, did not thank him, and merely said: "Good morning" to him as I got up and walked out; and that is the nearest that I have ever come to having any religious talk with any preacher in all the years that I have been an infidel worker, and I now complacently damn every priest and preacher in Lexington. But, in his deep affliction, my heart goes out to the Catholic printer, Byrnes, and I contrast his Christian feeling with my own infidel feeling as my only daughter comes home from her teaching in Louisville to spend

the Christmas holiday. According to the religion of Byrnes and of all representative Christians, God directed that firecracker so that it destroyed the eye of his daughter. His religion will not allow that things are controlled by laws of nature that have no respect for religion. If there was any reasonable comfort in religion, in this hour of his sorrow, I would not want to take it from him. But he and all Christians ought to see, from an event like this, that if there is any God, He will bring misery upon the man who believes in Him and worship Him, while He is good to me the most reiled, blatant, blasphemous infidel that ever lived in Kentucky.

FROM MRS. WATSON HESTON.

Carthage, Mo., Dec. 23, 1904.

Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Moore: Dear Kind Friends—Your favor of the 19th at hand. Many thanks. Our kind friends remember us in our troubles and distress, and we certainly appreciate what they have done for us. It helps us some in our financial affairs. We are terribly behind in our debts, Mr. Heston having been sick for so long.

His legs are paralyzed from his knees down, and he cannot sit up. Any exertion makes him faint.

He is the thinnest person I have ever seen to be living.

He said I must tell you that if he ever got well he would pay you back, in work, for the \$5.00.

I do not know what will become of us if Mr. Heston does not improve enough to allow me to work so as to earn something, for I take so much more to live on in the winter than in the summer, and everything is so high.

Let me again thank you and other good friends. Yours, MR. AND MRS. WATSON HESTON. I have a fine picture of Heston that hangs in sight as I write.

He is sitting making a cartoon and at the side of his chair lies a paper upon the northwest corner of which is my picture and across the top of which is "Blue Grass Blade."

After I began publishing The Blade the first infidel paper I ever saw was the New York Truth Seeker. A man said to me: "Go with me to my store; I want to show you some pictures." They were the cartoons made by Heston. Afterward he cartooned me in three issues of that paper. It hurt pretty bad at the time, but that's all forgotten now.

He is a genius and has done much to help our cause. We shall probably never see another like him. His picture of the creation of a woman out of a rib is, in my judgment, his masterpiece.

Los Angeles, Cal., Dec. 8, 1904. C. C. Moore, Editor Blade:

Dear Sir and Friend—I write to thank you for the kind complimentary notice you gave the November Review

PRICE LIST

MEN'S NEW MODEL 16 SIZE

WATCHES

HAMPDEN: "No. 104," 23 jewels, \$32; "105," 23 jewels, \$26; "Wm. Kinley," 21 jewels, \$23; same, 17 jewels, \$12; "General Stark" 17 jewels, \$10; 15 jewels, \$8; 7 jewels, \$5.50.

WALTHAM: "Riverside Maximus," 23 jewels, \$50; "Vanguard," 23 jewels, \$30; "Riverside," 17 jewels, \$21; "P. S. Bartlett," 17 jewels, \$12.50; 15 jewels, \$9; 7 jewels, \$6.

ELGIN: "No. 156," or "162," 21 jewels, \$49; "270," 21 jewels, \$25; "243" or "246," 17 jewels, \$22; "242," 17 jewels, \$18; "241," 17 jewels, \$12; 15 jewels, \$8.50; 7 jewels, \$6.

CASES: All the above in the new Model, thin Silverine Screw Cases. In Fahy's, Crown or Deuber filled god screw case, guaranteed by manufacturers for 20 years, artistic hand chased or plain, \$2.00 more; hunting, \$5.00 more. In 25 year case, \$2.00 more than in 20 year case. In cases guaranteed for all time, screw, \$3.00, or hunting, \$10.00 more than in Silverine case. Prices of solid gold cases on application.

Every watch guaranteed fresh and new from factory (no "shop-keepers"), an accurate time-keeper and, if well used, good for fifty years or longer. Will be kept in order for one year. Beware of "Special" movements and cases made nobody knows where, and which you cannot price intelligently and buy everywhere. Also of die-work (stamped) "engraved" cases—they are a fraud. Those listed above are known to be the best watches made, and—if watch is new and perfect—you are safe to buy them where price is lowest. I pay freight.

LADIES' GOLD WATCHES.

Large (6) size Elgin, Waltham or Hampden, 20-year gold filled latest style, artistic hand-chased, 7 jewels, \$10; 15 jewels, \$12.50; 16 jewels, adj., \$17. Small (6) size 7 jewels, \$11.50; 15 jewels, \$15; 16 jewels, adj., \$18. "Riverside," extra fine, \$26. In 25-year case, \$1 more. In 14k solid gold case, \$10 to \$50 more. Latter with diamonds, all in plush box, prepaid, with guarantee.

CHAINS.

Long Guards, latest style, soldered links, opals or other sets in slides, rolled plated, \$1, \$1.50 and \$2. Best Filled Gold, \$2.50, \$3 and \$4. Extra heavy, \$5. Solid Gold, \$8, \$10, \$10 and \$25. Gents' Chains, same variety. Orders filled from any catalogue at same price or less. Cash refunded at option.

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I am an expert in this line and will save you 20 per cent if you will order of me.

Send for price list of Jewelry, Freethought Badges, Rings, Silver and Plated Ware, Optical Goods and My Tract, "Theism in the Crucible," free.

OTTO WETTSTEIN

110 N. KENSINGTON AVENUE

LA GRANGE, ILL.

In a recent number of The Blade. Such an act shows the true spirit of Liberalism, and I assure you it did me more

good to learn that you could be so magnanimous and truly Liberal than the mere fact that you endorsed what I had to say in the little editorial.

I am sorry to see The Blade compelled by lack of support to issue as a half sheet, and I hope its friends will soon wake up and rally to its rescue.

Thanking you again and extending to you assurance of appreciation and kindly feeling, I am yours fraternally, SINGLETON W. DAVIS.

Muncie, Ind., Dec. 10, E. M., 304. Dear Brother Moore—Enclosed you will find \$1.00 to pay for The Blade for another year.

I will send you my address on "The Decay of Supernaturalism," delivered at the St. Louis Congress of Freethinkers, as soon as you leave room in The Blade for it.

Let me know when you would like to have it. Yours always, T. J. BOWLES.

A WOMAN LAWYER

Says "Dog Fennel" Is Good Enough to Read Several Times.

Dover, N. H., Dec. 14, 304. My Friend—I enclose \$1.00 for The Blade. I have paid for The Blade for Miss Abbie Nudd for two years and I think, as Josh Billings used to say, that "if you couldn't strike it in a reasonable time it was best to quit," and while Miss Nudd is a friend of mine and an excellent woman, if she doesn't care enough about the paper to subscribe for it, she shouldn't have it. So please discontinue the paper to her. She lives here in Dover, and send me The Blade here as usual.

I was much pleased that Mrs. Henry was made President of the Free Thought Association. I consider her the ablest woman in this country and we shall "boom" during her administration.

"Crime Credulity."

I think the crime of credulity ought to have a big sale at present. Madame Chadwick seems to have deceived the Parsons, financiers and ordinary people. If Carnegie will honor her checks he need have no fear of dying rich and can escape that disgrace. Women seem as active in "Frenzied Finance" as the men, which arouses me, inasmuch as woman is not supposed to have sense enough to vote. I like to see her hold her own and the bankers too in a financial deal. I am reading "Dog Fennel." I have loaned it so

many times. I do not have chance to read it through before some one wants it and then when I get hold of it I commence at the beginning, but it is worth reading several times.

The weather here is perfect. I've been considering the advisability of coming New Hampshire as a "winter resort," but concluded to wait until February. Yours very truly,

MARILLA M. RICKER.

PROFANITY

Chief Feature of J. P. DuVall's Sermons.

Claiming to be Preacher, He Spends Time Insulting Pedestrians

Proclaiming that he was a disciple of Jesus Christ, and that he and God were "together" on some subject he did not take the trouble to explain, a man giving his name as J. DuVall was arrested by Patrolman Gallagher and Sergt. Doran at Fourth avenue and Market sts, yesterday afternoon. Despite the fact that he was supposed to be preaching, DuVall's sentences were a strange conglomeration of profanity and slang.

DuVall seemed to be afflicted with the idea that every one on the streets had the desire to hear him deliver a lecture, and his style was correct, according to the set forms of the platforms. Stationing himself on a corner, he spent his time yesterday morning and afternoon discoursing on the values of his religion. He explained that there was no such thing as a church, and that he preached the only religion and that God named him to scatter the news abroad.

When found by the officers, DuVall was discoursing at Fourth avenue and Market street, and the officers say he had insulted a number of women who passed him, although they believe he did so unintentionally. He was charged with disorderly conduct. The officers believe that he is suffering from an attack of delirium tremens. Intentionally. He was charged with disorderly conduct. The officers believe that he is suffering from an attack of delirium tremens.

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